

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Jenkins

DATE: 3/11/75

FROM : B. J. White

- 1-Mr. Jenkins
- 1-Mr. White
- 1-Mr. Adams
- 1-Mr. Gebhardt
- 1-Mr. Moore
- 1-Mr. Herndon

SUBJECT: GEORGE O'TOOLE
 AUTHOR
 "THE ASSASSINATION TAPES"
 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to the Director's question "What about this?" raised as a result of his review of a UPI wire service report dated 3/10/75 concerning the captioned book. This book concludes Lee Harvey Oswald was telling the truth when he said he did not kill President Kennedy. The author, George O'Toole, a former CIA employee, states he used a Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE) to reach this conclusion. The wire service report states O'Toole's book also contends he was "framed" possibly by employees of the Dallas Police force and the FBI.

O'Toole held a press conference yesterday and has subsequently appeared on two nationally televised shows to promote his book, a condensed version of which appears in the current issue of "Penthouse." Review of his appearance on the "Panorama" show yesterday indicates the tenor of his book is that Lee Harvey Oswald truthfully denied killing President Kennedy and that the assassination was a conspiracy about which members of the Dallas Police Department may have knowledge.

The gimmick allegedly separating this book from the myriad of others in the field is the use of PSE to indicate Oswald's veracity and certain Dallas policemen's lack thereof. Alan Bell, President of Dektor Counterintelligence and Security, Inc., Springfield, Virginia, PSE's creator and manufacturer, appeared with O'Toole on "Panorama" (the Laboratory recorded the event).

PSE's rationale is that interposed on the audible voice frequencies are certain inaudible frequency modulations whose strength and pattern relate inversely to the degree of physiological stress in the speaker at the moment of utterance. The device detects, measures, and graphically displays certain stress-related components of the voice which, it is alleged, enable the user to detect falsehood. PSE's input is a tape recording (in its present state it cannot be used "live").

ENCLOSURE

REC-20, 62-109060-722

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RESEARCH SECTION

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Memorandum to Mr. Jenkins
Re: GEORGE O'TOOLE
AUTHOR, "THE ASSASSINATION TAPES"
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

The author predicates his claim of Oswald's truthfulness on two statements made by him in the presence of television cameras on 11/22/63 while in the custody of Dallas police. To a reporter's question "Did you kill the President?" he allegedly responded "No, I have not been charged with that." To a similar question "Did you shoot the President?" he allegedly replied "No I didn't shoot anybody, no sir." O'Toole, who apparently did not himself interpret the charts on these statements, states that while Oswald's voice showed stress at other times during this brief exchange with reporters it showed no stress indicative of deception during utterance of the above two replies.

PSE's underlying theory is sound and is, in fact, the rationale behind the conventional polygraph. We have followed PSE's development and found nothing to indicate its superiority to the polygraph. Its only advantage is that it can be used surreptitiously or, as here, after the declarer is no longer available for live testing. PSE's claimed potential held great possibilities for military application as an expedient method of determining Vietnam villagers bona fides and the Defense Department commissioned extensive research projects to validate the instrument. In a report by Dr. Joseph Kubis, Fordham University, conducted for the U. S. Army Land Warfare Laboratory, it was concluded that PSE's claims were considerably exaggerated and that PSE was markedly inferior to the conventional polygraph as a deception detection device. Other studies confirmed these findings and the Defense Department has discontinued its study of and interest in this device.

Conclusions reached through PSE's use are, like the polygraph's, dependent upon interpretation. We do not have these graphs and do not know what statements made by Oswald showed what specific reactions. The most important point to remember is that any such device measures only physiological reactions. Such reactions may be caused not only by truthfulness or deception, but by many other factors, direct or indirect, and specifically the psychological make-up of the subject. Given the chaotic circumstances of the interview scene, the obvious psychological instability of Oswald, and the dubious accuracy of PSE itself it is our opinion that this latest claim rests upon a poor foundation.

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AUTHOR, "THE ASSASSINATION TAPES"

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Every reason exists to believe that he was not "framed" based upon the extensive investigation conducted by this Bureau. Further comment in this regard is not possible until such time as O'Toole's book can be reviewed in detail.

RECOMMENDATION:

As soon as O'Toole's book is available, a copy should be obtained by the External Affairs Division for review and appropriate comments.

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B. H. O'Connell
referred to Lab. Div.
Dist. Div.

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Relevant chapters re "PSE" reviewed in
Lab. Div. 4/1-3 and no additional
comments. Referred to Div 6.4/3
B.H.